As noted earlier, Superfund distinguishes between short-term and long-term responses to threats posed by hazardous substances. Our short-term responses, also called removal actions, address immediate threats to public health and the environment. Region III's Emergency Response and Removal Program has compiled an impressive record of accomplishment in protecting citizens, businesses and the environment in the Mid-Atlantic states over the past 20 years, investigating and aggressively addressing chemical releases, explosions, extreme soil and water contamination, and oil spills through the Oil Program.

EPA has initiated more than 130 emergency response actions throughout Virginia to remove immediate threats to public health and the environment.

EPA is justifiably proud of our support in the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA's) efforts during the severe flooding and devastation caused by Hurricane Floyd last year. Region III canvassed waterways for 'orphan' drums and tanks throughout portions of the Commonwealth of Virginia. Hardest hit was Franklin, where EPA quick response teams worked with federal, state and local responders to collect and identify up to 1,000 containers.

Once used for conditioning and destroying defense munitions, the Former Nansemond Ordnance Depot (FNOD) in Suffolk was found to be highly

Avtex Fibers, Inc. Site, Front Royal: Lead, arsenic and PCB-contamination at this site once posed an immediate health threat to the local community. EPA's emergency removal activities have included: transferring tons of various chemicals for recycling/reuse; treating flammable and corrosive chemicals, and designing a wastewater treatment system to protect the Shenandoah River from untreated discharges.

Former Nansemond Ordnance Depot, Suffolk: Working with the Army, EPA Region III is conducting an emergency removal effort to protect students, faculty and visitors to the affected Tidewater Community College from the threat of live munitions.

EPA Region III has removed over

716,609

gallons of hazardous liquids and

29,270

cubic yards of contaminated soils and solid waste in Virginia.

(Note: these amounts are for Superfund-lead removals that have been completed. PRPs and federal facilities do not report amounts of waste removed)

contaminated and was placed on the NPL last year. After discovering unexploded ordnance on the Tidewater Community College property, which occupies 60% of the site, EPA and the Army are conducting an intensive emergency removal effort to protect students, faculty and visitors to the college from the threat of live munitions. Recently, EPA signed an agreement with the State Historical Preservation Office to ensure this sensitive cleanup does not negatively impact local Indian artifacts buried throughout this valuable land.

While EPA was removing over 75,000 cubic yards of lead-contaminated soil at the Abex Superfund Site in Portsmouth, the Agency conducted a thorough cleanup of lead dust from furnaces and heating ducts in all 160 apartments in the Washington Park Housing development. Working with the Portsmouth Redevelopment and Housing Authority, Region III's blend of environmental expertise and community relations ensured the temporary relocation of 160 families throughout this highly sensitive removal action. Results of blood lead testing offered to all residents and children at the site last year indicated the development is a safe place to live. Negotiations regarding the future use of this property have resulted in the decision to relocate the residents and demolish Washington Park.

EPA is also focused on the safe handling of chemicals. This topic has generated a great deal of national attention following the infamous 1984 Bhopal

chemical disaster, and more recently, the deliberate chemical release in a Tokyo subway.

EPA prepares for contingencies such as biological and chemical warfare incidents, local preparedness issues, and first responder safety. The Mid-Atlantic Region also offers hazardous materials response training at no charge to about 1,000 firefighters, paramedics, hospital and emergency workers, military and police officers each year.

Region III's preparedness team also plays an integral role in vital security issues at national events. When the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) held its 50th Anniversary Summit in Washington, D.C. last year, intense preparation was required for the largest gathering of world leaders ever in the nation's capital. In order to shorten potential response times for any accidental or deliberate hazardous substance release, Region III was part of the multi-agency task force whose 'behind-the-scenes' efforts resulted not only in a successful summit, but also a new supplement to the nation's Federal Response Plan.

And when Philadelphia plays host to this year's Republican National Convention July 31 through August 4, Region III employees will work closely with the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) and FEMA to ensure shortened response times for any potential hazardous substance release, accidental or intentional, at this

EPA Region III supported FEMA during severe flooding caused by Hurricane Floyd last year.

EPA canvassed waterways for 'orphan' drums and tanks that contained hazardous materials.

Region III removes a 'runaway' drum from a local waterway.

EPA's emergency response and removal branch addresses oil spills throughout the Mid-Atlantic states.

Oil collects at wetland edge.

Turtle affected by oil spill.

gathering of visitors from all over the world.

Experience has shown that emergency preparedness improves when local stakeholders share information and participate in environmental decision-making. To that end, the Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act (EPCRA), coupled with the Clean Air Act (CAA), enable citizens to become knowledgeable about facilities that report hazardous chemicals that they store or handle, by providing public access to the reports. Last year, EPA required companies that store or handle hazardous wastes to submit Risk Management Plans (RMPs) to inform the public of what they are doing to prevent accidents, as well as how they plan to manage their chemicals responsibly. Summaries of these plans are now available to the public to help us better understand the chemical risks in our communities.

Region III's Chemical Emergency Preparedness and Prevention (CEPP) Program has responded to these growing issues and concerns, providing leadership, building partnerships and offering technical assistance to:

- Prevent and prepare for chemical emergencies;
- Respond to environmental crises;
- Inform the public about chemical hazards in their community, and
- Share lessons learned about chemical accidents.